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SOME
CONSIDERATIONS

Humbly Offer'd in a

LETTER

TO

R. N. J.

JOHN, Lord Bishop of Ely;

On a Book, Entituled,

The Present State

OF

TRINITY-COLLEGE

IN

CAMBRIDGE.

By Dr. BENTLEY.

By a Master of Arts, and Fellow of the said College.

Quo miser aufugiet, sua quem Vestigia produnt.

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OF THE

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THE THIRD

CAMBRIDGE

PRINTED BY

JOHN BENTLEY

STATIONER

AT THE

TO THE
Right Reverend Father in God,

J O H N,
Lord Bishop of *ELT*.

My LORD,

Familiar Epistles to Bishops
are grown as common, as
those to intimate Friends,
and Men are usually rea-
der to Print the one than Write
the other; the Love of Truth
being a ready Pretence: Not
that I think this Custom Excuse
enough for my Presumption, were
not something lessen'd by not
inscribing my Name.

A

The

The reason of this Trouble I give your Lordship, is a Book lately come out, Entitul'd, *The present State of Trinity College*, Written by the very Learned Dr. Bentley, and Publish'd by as great a Student in Law as Mr. Miller is in Physick; in which (after having represented the true State of the College) the Judicious Doctor has, with all the Art and Argument he is Master of, endeavour'd to Prove, that Dividends should be according to Stipends. Whether he has succeeded or no, I leave to your Lordship, which if he has, I believe he has led me into a fair Way to follow his Footsteps.

The Proposition I lay down is this.

If Dividends, as the Doctor says, ought to be according to Stipends, than Batchelours of Arts and Scholars

lars have a Right to a proportionable Share, according to their Stipend.

As I know no Arguments better than Doctor Bentley's, so I shall make bold to use no other than those he has in his Book, to prove his Proposition.

And first, My LORD, (*Pag. 65.*) it is depos'd, " That for a whole
 " Century from the Foundation
 " of the College, the Commons
 " Stipend and Livery Money
 " were all the Emoluments any
 " Fellow could have from the
 " College, except he held an
 " Office, (*Pag. 68.*) that the Stipends, which are the main Distinction of one Fellow from another, are advanc'd not at all by mere Standing, but solely by Academical Degrees: To a Doctor 5 l. to a Batchelour in

(6)

" Divinity 4 l. to a Master of
" Arts 2 l. and a Mark.

Your Lordship knows very well,
that the Bachelours of Arts and
Scholars were upon the same
Foundation, and had their Com-
mons, Stipends, and Livery Money,
tho' less in Proportion. As a D.
in D. had 5 l. Stipend, a B. of D.
4 l. a M. of A. 2 l. 13 s. 4 d. So
Bachelours of Arts had 2 l. and
Scholars had 13 s. 4 d. But adds
the Master (pag. 68.) " The real
" Value of the said Sums daily
" and gradually lessening, by the
" Advantage of the Corn Act,
" and Increase of Fines for Leases;
" and more Species being yearly
" paid the College than would
" defray the bld Stipend, and pro-
" vide for Repairs, to which Use
" the Overplus in former Times
" was put. It was not unreason-
" able that Dividends of the O-
" verplus

“ verplus should be made to the
 “ Fellows, to keep up their Fel-
 “ lowships to the Primitive Value.
 “ But then, says the Doctor, These
 “ Dividends should have been ac-
 “ cording to the Direction of the
 “ Statutes (the Doctor means ac-
 “ cording to Stipends) being still
 “ the same Money, and no more
 “ in effect, and arising from the
 “ very same Estate.

Your Lordship will observe from
 what has been said, that there was
 no Dividend for 100 Years after
 the Foundation; that then Sti-
 pends made the main Distinction:
 The Difference then between a
 D. in D. and Batchelour of Arts
 was 5 *l.* to 2 *l.* between a Doctor
 and a Scholar 5 *l.* to 13 *s.* 4 *d.* a B.
 in D. and B. of A. 4 *l.* to 2 *l.* a
 B. in D. and Scholar 4 *l.* to 13 *s.*
 4 *d.* a M. of A. and B. of A. 2 *l.*
 13 *s.* 4 *d.* to 2 *l.* a M. of A. and
 Scholar

Scholar 2 *l.* 13 *s.* 4. *d.* to 13 *s.* 4. *d.*

This was the main Distinction at first; but the Value of Money lessening, and more Species being paid in, a Dividend is made to keep up the Fellowships to the Primitive Value. But why to keep up the Fellowships only to the Primitive Value? If the Increase proceeds from the same Estate, and is still the same Money, and no more in Effect, the Doctor will find it no easy Matter to exclude the B. of A. and Scholars from a proportionable Share: For if, as the Master says, 5 *l.* the Doctor's Stipend, is increas'd to 30 *l.* then 2 *l.* the B. of A. Stipend is increas'd to 12 *l.* and 13 *s.* 4. *d.* the Scholar's Stipend is increas'd to 4 *l.* Or else the Doctor must prove that the whole may be increas'd six times, and not each Part.

Nor

Nor can I see with what Shew of Right this Increase can be deny'd the Sholars, since 'tis the only way of keeping up the Equality of the Foundation, and answering the Design of the Founder. The main Difference between a Doctors and a B. of Arts his Stipend, being at first, as was specified before, 5 *l.* Yearly to 2 *l.* between a D. of D. and a Scholar's 5 *l.* to 13 *s.* 4 *d.* The Proportion can this way only be maintain'd, for as 5 *l.* is to 2 *l.* so is 30 *l.* to 12 *l.* as 5 *l.* to 13 *s.* 4 *d.* so is 30 *l.* to 4 *l.*

The 30 *l.* My LORD, the Doctor is to have, is a half Dividend, according to the Masters Rule, that is his Stipend multiply'd by Five, amounting to 25 *l.* And the Stipend it self, which is every Year duly paid. And 4 *l.* the Scholars should have is a Dividend according to their Stipend 13 *s.* 4 *d.* multiply'd also by Five making 3 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* and the Stipend it self.

The Sum of the whole may be drawn up thus. The Batchelors and Scholars are of the same Foundation with the Fellows.

They have Stipend as well as them, tho' in a less Proportion.

The Money of this Stipend has increas'd equally with theirs, consequently the Value is equally decreas'd.

Now if Dividends proceed from this Money and are made to keep up the Stipends to Batchelours and the Primitive Value, why are not the Scholarsto have a proportionable Share?

Upon what Grounds this is withheld, I am wholly at a Loss, nor can imagin on what Account the *flourishing Part of the College*, as the Doctor calls them, are thus neglected. I'm afraid, the best Argument will make but a mean Shew, and Custom is but a very poor Pretence; I'm sure, at least, the Doctor can't plead it, who in his Book Page 37 says thus,

“ What

" What the Usage of our own
 " College has been of late Years, or
 " within Memory, I cannot affirm;
 " neither am I to regard; 'Tis not to
 " me what has been done, but what
 " ought to have been done. They
 " are the Statutes I am bound to ob-
 " serve, and not Customs, that have
 " prevail'd in breach of them (*pag 67*)
 " Where talking of the several Ways
 " had been us'd in Dividends, he calls
 " them Arbitrary Changes, whereby
 " the Forty four Junior Fellows, have
 " been gradually more and more Suf-
 " ferers; Not taking the least Notice
 " of the Batchelors and Scholars, who in
 " Proportion had much the greater Loss.
 " Your Lordship, I believe, will agree
 " with the Doctor in what he says about
 " Custom, and that the Statutes are so-
 " lemnly to be observ'd. Upon which
 " I shall give you another of the Doctors
 " Sentences. (*page 77*) " 'Tis the Di-
 " rection to the Visitor in the Statutes
 " of K. Edward that he take Care the
 " Will

“ Will of the Founder be maintain'd.
 The Will of the Founder, therefore, it is plain was this. That the main difference between a Doctor and a Batchelor of Arts, as to Income, should be the difference between 5 *l.* and 2 *l.* a Doctor and Scholar 5 *l.* and 13 *s.* 4 *d.* yearly. But if a Doctor has 30 *l.* and a Batchelor but 2 *l.* and a Scholar but 13 *s.* 4 *d.* the difference is not the same,

Therefore by this Method the Will of the Founder is not maintain'd. Again

The Will of the Founder was, that the main difference between a Doctor of Divinity and B. of A. should be the difference between 5 *l.* and 2 *l.* and between a Doctor and Scholar 5 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.* a Year. But if a Doctor has 30 *l.* the only way to keep the same difference, is to allow the Batchelors 12 *l.* and the Scholars 4 *l.* Therefore this is the only way of maintaining the Will of the Founder.

And

And now, My LORD, I will have done with this Particular; but not without owning my great Obligations to the Doctor, whose Arguments have afforded me great assistance in these my Endeavours, which if he will design to answer, I may be furnish'd with more convincing Proofs, to demonstrate my Proposition.

I desire your Lordship also to consider, that what I have said, is not out of Interest, being just opposite to mine, for the Batchelors and Scholars Dividend will be no small loss to me, as Fellow and Master of Arts. But I shall think that fully recompenc'd, by the Good I shall do. I would inform you likewise that I am not of the Subscribers, but *one of the Flower and main Hope of the College for Learning and Sobriety, the sole Satisfaction to the Doctor for the Loss of his time and Studies, in ten Years Drudgery and Fighting with Beasts at Ephesus.*

Upon

Upon what has been said, My LORD, I desire to make some Reflections, and and the Doctors Proceedings as well as Proofs will bear me out in this Particular.

Besides many thousand Instances he himself can exhibit, even what he has already demonstrated in this Book of his, will prove him discerning. And for his honest and sincere Dealings, he has, in many parts of this Book, testified in everlasting Panegyrick. For as a Learned Author says, that no Man rallies with a better Grace, or more sprightly Turn, so it may be as justly said of him, that no Man has a Head better turn'd for Panegyrick, especially self Panegyrick.

An Instance of his Art this way, we have not only here, but in his Book against the Honourable Mr. B—— If that be his, for many begin to doubt, for those reasons Mr. B—— supposes would influence future Generations; and I must add one more that is full of
of

of Persuasion, viz, That no Man could commend his own Work so much.

In fine, that he is discerning will be allow'd by every Body. His Honesty he himself has Prov'd and Celebrated. Here's a Plunge; for he is both, and yet were he so, there would be no occasion for this Epistle. I begin My LORD, to smell a Rat; I had a shrewd Suspicion of this Templer at first, and now I believe can solve all this matter.

There being many Copies of the Present State scatter'd about, one happen'd to fall into this Dandiprates Hands, and this being imperfect, and Publish'd by him, unknown to the Learned Doctor has occasion'd all this trouble.

If I now prune my Pinions, it will not, I hope, be reckon'd arrogant. Even Envy it self will be *Dr. B. Dissen-* forc'd to allow, that this Discovery of mine, if it be true, is no inconsiderable one.

And

And now, My LORD, having made this, I may say, almost Miraculous Discovery, it leads me necessarily to others; for this Copy as was premis'd was very Imperfect and Uncorrect, consequently there are not few Erratas. *If I may expect Thanks for the Discovery, I will do my Endeavour to point out some.*

And first, wherever the Doctor has a little of that graceful Ruggidness, peculiar to himself, this young Templer is for polishing that rough Diamond; When the Doctor may seem to the unskilfull, a little too positive and assuming, I find he is for mollifying. As you may see such Expressions as these; *I dare say, I shall endeavour to prove, would probably be, I believe, which I think plain, &c.* An odd way of proceeding in this Younster, and as if a Poet, that was to represent a Clown in a Play, should make him talk with all the Politeness of a Courtier, only because that in it self is better Language.

Now

Now wherever the Reader meets with these or the like smooth Expressions, he is desir'd to Correct 'em thus. *I positively affirm, I will undeniably prove, which is a Demonstrative Proof; I know and will demonstrate, as plain as the Light,* and then the Librarian will appear.

After this general Observation, I shall descend to Particulars, but first lay down as granted, that the Doctor is undeniably Discerning and Honest, and then I go on, and shall unmask this young Templer, and prove how much he has wrong'd the Master.

(Page 39.) " And both my own
 " Family and several Fellows and
 " Scholars of the College, owe already great Obligations to Mr. *Aspenhurst* on that Account, and (if I can
 " Judge of Worth and Abilities) will
 " owe many more.

As I take it the Person meant here is Evidence *Aspenhurst*, the same that made that wonderful Discovery that the Mob was Risen.

This Passage, My LORD, I affirm is
foisted in, nor can I help being suspici-
 ous. that this Templer is a very near
 Friend of Mr. A——s

For since 'tis granted the Doctor is
 discerning, how could he call Mr. A——
 a Man of Worth and Abilities? Is
 there even a Possibility he could think
 him a good Physician? I remember
 indeed this Person, having just got e-
 nough Physick to countenance a con-
 fident Man in a superficial Discourse
 about it; It was proclaim'd by the
 Master's Man at *Cambridge* that he
 would Cure all Distempers for the
 Poor Gratis: And, to speak Truth, he
 work'd an effectual Cure, for that was
 their last Sickness. Which tho' it may
 at first, seem a very worthy Action,
 yet, if we consider the Inabilities and
 Want of Experience in the Physician,
 we shall reckon it an Experiment, fit
 to be try'd only on Malefactors. But
 this must be said for Mr. A—— as an
 Instance of his Charity, that out of
 hundreds

hundreds of poor People in and about Cambridge, there's scarce one left now in those unhappy Circumstances.

What probably might have given occasion, to the thrusting in this Commendation of Mr. A —, as coming from Doctor Bentley, is the Master's Man's Proclaiming that Gentleman's Design, which made the Editor presume People would not suspect these Praises, but receive them as Genuine.

But since it is granted that the Master is discerning, it must also be granted that he has no Opinion of Mr. A —. And if so, it's as certain that he never wrote this part of the Book. For that would contradict the other thing laid down. That he was Honest.

But had all other Means
 fail'd us of detecting this *Dr. Bent.*
Differ. Cheat, yet that very Paren-
 thesis, (If I can Judge of Worth and
 Abilities) had detected this Youngster.
 For it is an Expression too low for
 Dr.

Dr. Bentley, who I affirm would have said (unless my Judgment in Worth and Abilities, can be call'd in Question.) And I am in Amaze to think, that a Person, who so boldly undertakes to foist in Sentences, and impose on the World; should have no better a Hand at Personating the Doctor. But Providence has ordain'd, that the greatest Politicians, as well as the greatest Hero should have one Place unarm'd.

Dr. Bent. Differ. But I love to deal ingeniously, and will not conceal one Argument, that is against me

If the Doctor had not a great Opinion of Mr. A—, How came he to give him the Physick Fellowship? If he discerned well, he was not honest, if he was honest, he did not discern well. To which I answer, That his Sagacity and Honesty are

are laid down as granted, and are not to be call'd in Question.

Having undeniably prov'd, the foresaid Passage to be spurious, and to have slip't into the Text, it makes me with more Alacrity and Authority venture to Correct another.

I find in Page 72. " Mr. Cotes
 " our Astronomy Professor, and
 " Mr. Asphenurst our real, not no-
 " minal Physician, two Persons
 " known to your Lordship, whose
 " great Characters I shall omit, as
 " not having Room to say enough.

I have above prov'd it impossible for the Doctor to give such a Character of Mr. A—, and as soon as I read this Passage, *Subodoratus sum Mendam.* And with the greatest Ease this Passage may be rectified. The Error proceeding chiefly from the misplacing, the Physician and Astronomy Professor, whom the Editor was inclin'd to put first, as well for that, he was higher in the
 the

the University, as that it did a Kindness to his Friend Mr. Asbenhurst, who with a little Alteration, might be brought in to partake of the Doctors Complement.

Correct it thus. " Mr. Asbenhurst
 " our nominal Physician, and Mr.
 " Cotes our Astronomy Professor, a
 " Person known to your Lordship,
 " whose great Character I shall omit, as not having Room to say
 " enough. *Vides opinor novam jam*
 " *lucem exoriri.* I read a Person, not two Persons, and I think your Lordship not a little beholden to me, for freeing you from such an Acquaintance.

I don't question but our Editors were induc'd to this Alteration by the easiness of it, thinking, and not without Cause, that the Doctor's Kindness would pass, for reasons aforementioned, and his Acquaintance with your Lordship might easily be
 sup-

suppos'd, since he could dedicate a
Scurvy Copy of Verses to you.

But I hope, I have taken away
all Likelihood of having such an
Imputation fixt on your Lordship,
and that Men will impute it to his
miraculous Front, and not to any
Encouragement from you.

And now if I had but a Grain
of ill Nature, I have here a good
Opportunity to dilate on Mr. A—'s
Character; *But shall omit it as not
having Room to say enough.* Besides
that I think Mr. R—'s Character
in the Doctor's Book might as well
be left out.

And since it lies in my way, I
will take a little Pains, to do Ju-
stice to that worthy Member of our
College, and shew how Calumny
can Asperse the best of Men.

And here, it is not my Design,
to deny the Particulars and Ground
of this Charge, but show how Wit-
ty Malice can turn things.

The

The Doctor calls him, *Page 26.*
 "A sordid Miser every way Worth-
 less."

Mr. R—— indeed is not one of those who think it no Sin to enjoy the Creature; He does not give a loose to Pleasure, because he has Money; nor, like some Extravagant Wretches, make no Conscience of Spending half a Crown. But then 'tis very hard a Man can't avoid Profuseness, without being reckon'd Coverous.

Besides we have lasting Instances of his Generosity.

When the Building of the Chapel was at a Stand, this Good and Liberal Man brought out fifty Pound to the Workmen, upon which the Building went on: And yet this Generous, Pious Act of his has been turn'd to Ridicule; and the Donor ungratefully abus'd. And because out of his peculiar Humility, he descended so low as to eat Bread

Bread and Cheese ev'ry Day with the Workmen, These malicious Calumniators spread it abroad; That he repented the Act, and was resolv'd to Eat his Money out.

A Report so void of Sense, that I shall not try to refute it.

Well, but the Master goes on: "Is never without a Curse in his Mouth.

And why should we not put a favourable Construction upon this; since from Mr. R——s other good Qualities, we may justly conclude, it proceeds from a lively Detestation of Vice, which the Master affirms is so Epidemical in our College.

But, the Charge proceeds, "Keeps Company with the very Bedmakers and Sculls.

We plead Guilty, My LORD, to this Indictment, we don't pretend to deny a Truth so manifest. *Si hoc fit peccare fatemur id.* If exemplary

plary Piety and Humility be Arraign'd, Mr. R—— is like to undergo the greatest Punishment, who for *the Propagation of Good, and Instruction of the Ignorant* submits to keep Company with these sort of People, that he may instruct and lead 'em to Knowledge.

And we have seen the wholesome Effects of this Charitable Diligence, for what with his and other Fellows (whose Charity is the greater, since they desire not to be nam'd) keeping Company with these poor Wretches, I may be bold to say, nay will undertake to Demonstrate, that our Sculls are the most Ingenious, Polite, well Educated Sculls in the whole University; I will venture to say, *The second Flourishing Part of the College.*

But to go on. “ Has absented
“ from Chappel for some Years on
“ all *Sundays* and *Festivals*, be-
“ cause

“ cause he will not be at Charge
 “ for Surplice and Hood.

And why should we not take
 this in the best Sense; That since
 Mr. R—s Detestation of Vice and
 Impiety, as was laid down before, often
 Extorts some hundreds of Curses from
 him, he chooses to stay from Chappel,
 least, seeing Men pray with less Fer-
 vour, than his strict Conscience re-
 quires, he should be drawn in to Curse
 in Gods House and Presence.

And now I come to the last
 Charge against him, “ He made
 “ the Carpenter rate his Bills Six
 “ and six Pence in every Pound,
 “ above what was paid by him,
 “ as can be prov’d upon Oath,
 “ of which, almost a third part of
 “ the whole, he cheated the Col-
 “ lege.

I desire leave to observe here,
 that in this and many other Places
 of the Doctor’s Book we find these
 Words, *as shall be prov’d upon Oath.*
 There-

Therefore all the Answer I shall make to this last Accusations is, that the Knight of the Post is known.

And since I have vindicated this Good Man, I might proceed to do Justice to those others, that lye under an Imputation from the Characters bestow'd upon them in the Present State. And I affirm that I have as undeniable Proofs, to answer these Aspersions, as I have already produc'd in Defending Mr. R—. But I shall venture to omit these, presuming, that what I have already Confuted will invalidate the other Charges, in your Lordships Opinion.

And now to draw to a Conclusion, My LORD, I must say, a very reasonable Man would expect thanks from the Doctor for so much Labour. I have, I hope, done my Duty, and am satisfied; being resolv'd to conceal my Name.

For

For tho' I have, not unsuccessfully in my poor Opinion, endeavour'd to correct this spurious Edition, and free'd the Master from the Scandal, that might arise from its being Uncorrect and Imperfect, yet am I Conscious, that the Success, in some Places, has not answer'd all my Care and Diligence. And that there may not be a real and full Answer, to what Men may Object, at the same time, your Lordship may discover my earnest Desire it should be so.

Upon this Account, in some Measure, it is, that I am secret; For I know the Man to be Revengefull, he won't Thank me for my Endeavours, but Accuse me for want of Success; In truth my LORD, I dread that Lion in Critick and Philology, we shall have him pronouncing, that such a one, calling me by my Name, has Publish'd

The

Dr. Bent.
Differ.

*The most Uncorrect Peice
that has come on the The-
ater of Learning this 1000 Years.*

However I have one Design, if he
does this. I will Write again in
Answer, and secure one of my
Books not to be worst.

If your Lordship be Visitor, as
the Master says, *de amovendis Se-
nioribus*, as your allow'd by all to be
de amovendo Magistro, you may have
a Petition towards the removal of
both which, that it may be drawn
up with more Accuracy than has
been lately practis'd, is committed
to the Care of,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's

Most Obedient

And humble Servant

J. N.

If you are not Visitor my LORD,
in these two Capacities, I shall de-
fire your Lordships Interest to have
it laid before the Queen and Coun-
cil.

ERRATA.

THE Author being at some Distance from the Press,
these Faults are desir'd to be mended thus. Page 10.
l. 10. *dele* Batchelors and. l. 21. add Batchelors and. p. 12. l.
13. after 5 l. add to. p. 4. l. 5. *dele* very Learned.

FINIS.

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If you are not Viceroy my Lord,
in these two Capacities, I shall be
your Lordship's Interest to have
said before the Queen and Coun-
cil.

21 W 12

